



STATEMENT

BY

**MS. JENNIFER BOUCAUD-BLAKE
CHAIR, NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY
TO THE 65TH MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

Date: 14 – 18 MARCH, 2022

Time: 5:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

Venue: VIRTUAL

Thank you Chair,

With our election as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Trinidad and Tobago re-states its commitment to collective responsibility, and undertaking increased advocacy for stronger partnerships between governments, international agencies, civil society and other groups, to strengthen our responses to the persistent and emerging challenges of drug control.

We recognize the benefits of training in the INCB's IONICS and GRID initiatives for staff of key stakeholder agencies to strengthen control of the trafficking in, and shipments and production of, New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs). In this regard, I must mention the role of the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security of the CARICOM Secretariat, (CARICOM/IMPACS) which is located in Trinidad and Tobago, and hosts the IONICS system for the Caribbean region.

The UNODC has also been an important partner in the implementation of a variety of programmes. However,

since I am focused on management of NPS's, we are grateful for the donation of the Ramen Spectrometer devices that has facilitated field testing of substances confiscated at various locations. Having noted the utility of these instruments, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is in the process of securing additional devices.

Over the last three years, our Forensic Science Centre has taken the lead in analysing and reporting on the composition of the aforementioned substances, through our Early Warning System (EWS). As a result of their exceptional work, in the past two years, the administrators of the GLOBAL SMART programme invited them to deliver presentations at four (4) of their international sessions.

Enhancing our interdiction capacity continues to be a priority of the Government, and to aid this initiative, two Cape Class Patrol Vessels were recently commissioned. However, my government also considers a balanced approach critical to success in addressing drug control and has implemented:

- Drug Demand Reduction programmes,

- Alternatives to incarceration for justice involved drug dependent persons,
- Proportional sentencing in drug related matters,
- Stringent money laundering policies,
- Rationalization of comprehensive legislation and regulations to control pre-cursor chemicals, and
- Incorporation of human rights and gender considerations in drug policies and programmes.

Chair, fellow members of the CND, and UN member states, we look forward to meaningful collaboration as we address and resolve our collective challenges.

I thank you.